

111

Young Lady of Fortune,
OR HER LOVER
GAINED BY STRATAGEM.

A NOVEL
IN TWO VOLUMES.
By Miss JUDITH ALEXANDER.

The father locks, bolts and bars the door,
Till 'what loath, bolt, or bar can keep in store /
A woman from her will and desire,
No more than mortal man can attempt or require.
Than as the soul doth rule this earthly mass,
And all the service of the body frame;
So love of soul doth love of body pass,
No less than perfect gold surmounts the meanest brass.

VOL. II

Printed for the Author by L. ALEXANDER, Bishopsgate-
Street, and Sold by G. STALKER, No. 4, St. Andrew's-
Court, Ludgate-Street.

M. DCC. LXXXII.

T H E

Young Lady of Fortune

OR HER LOVER

GAINED BY STRATAGEM

A NOVEL

IN TWO VOLUMES

BY MR. ALEXANDER

The first volume of this novel is a
very fine and interesting story
of a young lady who is
seduced by a villainous man
and who is afterwards
rescued by a brave knight.
The second volume is a
very fine and interesting story
of a young man who is
seduced by a villainous man
and who is afterwards
rescued by a brave knight.

VOL. II

Printed by the Author, at the
Office of the Author, No. 1, Pall Mall.
LONDON.

Young Lady of Fortune,

who feared he would kill me, he
had certainly committed some
outrage **HER LOVER GAINED**

me into a chamber, and kept the
key himself; happy for Polly and

STRATAGEM.

MY father found it, for by the
description of his behaviour,
it could only be compared to what
I might meet with in Bedlam; he
treated me with the most bitter
reproaches, and had my father not
been

been withheld by his servants,
 who feared he would kill me, he
 had certainly committed some
 outrage on my person; he locked
 me into a chamber, and kept the
 key himself; happy for Polly and
 myself also, that her name was
 not mentioned in that luckless
 letter, for my father had no sus-
 picion of her having any concerns
 in the intended marriage; he had
 quite a different opinion of her.
 Neither Lovewell in the absence
 of me, nor I in my confinement,
 was without some glimpse of hope
 from

from the integrity of our dear Girl; she indeed, practised every matter for the enlargement of me, for whenever the family were abroad, she would frequently try every key in the house, but could find none, that would open the door of my prison, and to force it was impossible without the noise of alarming the rest of the servants; there was I compelled to remain, till my father having formed his resolutions.

One morning my father came up stairs to me, and ordering me

to follow him, he put me into a coach and six, in which was two women attended to receive me; I had no time for complaints, or expostulations, the door of the house was immediately shut, and the coach drove away with all possible rapidity. I thought that I should never have come to the end of my pilgrimage, nor could I forbear asking the women, if we were to travel by dry land to the antipodes; every mile I went, to the sacred ven that carried me from the idol of my soul, the person of

of

of all my joys. I was thus carried
down into Wales, and placed in a
small house, occupied by a person
who is a dependant on my father,
a Mrs. Reynolds, (for that was the
name of the woman who received
me;) she had strict orders to con-
fine me, to let no person whatever
have access to me, and to refuse
me even the privilege of pen, ink,
and paper. Everything looked
strange about me, I traversed every
room in the house; sat down in
one, looked out of the windows of
another; took up a book, but had
not

not power to read: perpetually
 intrudes on my solitude & doleful
 knell from a neighbouring steeple,
 often called upon me to ruminate
 on coffins and funerals, graves and
 gloomy sepulchres, for it was these
 dismal subjects which often put me
 in the vapours, and made me start
 at my own shadow. Almost a
 fortnight was I in this deplorable
 condition, which reduced me to so
 low an ebb, that I gave myself up
 entirely to grief, and was pining
 away in a distemper for which I
 saw no remedy. Alas! said I to
 myself,

myself, what an unhappy being am I, how completely happy did I live, till the death of my Grandmother; now my father thus punishes me, and sentences me to pass the whole remainder of my days, in lonely solitude, and deprives me from all society.

My father entertained no doubts of Polly on this score, he would not reveal to any body how he had disposed of me; but the dear Girl conjectured the truth, by the manner in which I was carried off; and on the return of those

who accompanied me, Polly had artifice enough, to learn from the mouth of one of the woman, the place where I was secreted; she immediately acquainted Lovewell, who protested he would have the whole world searched for me; and no sooner had he an account were I was, but he instantly took horse; attended by one servant which he had lately hired, and whom in Lovewell's opinion, was a man of uncommon share of cunningness, and therefore he thought him the properest person, to be employed in

in the affair he had in view, as Lovewell did not in the least doubt, but that I should be kept as inaccessible, as while under the key of my obdurate father. Lovewell had no acquaintance in those parts of the country, so he took up his lodging at the first inn, which was the most commodious for his purpose, as being the nearest to the house where I was confined. The servant had the address to make the discovery his master expected from him, and the transported Lovewell no sooner was informed

informed of the place which contained me, than he went in sight of me, and walked to and fro at a distance, in confidence of not being known there by any body but myself, and whom Lovewell hoped to see, at some or other of the windows; his hopes, in this particular, did not deceive him; for he perceived me leaning my head on my hand, in a disconsolate posture. He finding that I did not observe him, made a noise with some little stones which he picked up, this caused me to cast my eyes
to

to the place where Lovewell stood, I started, and appeared equally surprised, and pleased; not daring to speak, for fear of being heard by any of the family down stairs. I made a signal to him to write, and put down a sling from the window, to shew by what means I might receive a Letter from him; we continued some minutes, exchanging the most tender and significant glances; but, all at once, I retired hastily, at the same time waved my hand - as a token for him to retire; he judging the truth,

truth, that some person was coming into the room, which occasioned that interruption ; he obeyed the sign, and returned to his inn, where he passed the rest of the afternoon, in writing to me ; and in the evening he himself was the bearer of this billet.

My Dear & Ever Beloved Elizabeth.

I am at a loss for words to express the joy, I once more felt at seeing you ; oh ! let me bless the lucky hour. I know not, my Dear Elizabeth, why we are forbid to see each other ; my
love

' love for you is so great, that I
 ' cannot easily express the anxiety
 ' I feel, at being separated from
 ' you, the idol of my soul; for
 ' ever since I have been deprived
 ' of the pleasure of seeing, and
 ' speaking to you, I am no more
 ' the same person; every thing is
 ' grown unsupportable to me, and
 ' I am even a burden to myself.
 ' What have I done, to make your
 ' ungrateful father use you so ill?
 ' you are for ever before my eyes.
 ' Oh! my Dear Elizabeth, how
 ' shall I repay that Polly, for her
 ' everlasting

' Everlasting goodness; it was fine,
 ' this acquainted me where you
 ' was confined, and how every
 ' thing should be conducted; but
 ' my passion hurried me beyond
 ' the bounds of reason; but to use
 ' the words of the Poet,

" Sure! you will pardon,

" What you cannot approve,

" The hasty consequence of furious love."

' Read my letter several times over,
 ' and take care to conceal it. I
 ' am, with a confusion of mind, too
 ' great for words to describe, my
 ' Dear Elizabeth. Yours,

LOVEWELL."

He

He waited not long before I
appeared, and I letting down the
sling, to which he fixed the Letter.
When I was at School, I learned a
method of expressing the alphabet
with my fingers: Lovewell once
observed me using it, in a young
Lady, who had been my school-
fellow, and never would he let me
rest till I had taught it him: in
this manner, I found it of utility;
I spelt with my fingers, that he
should convey me pens, ink, and
paper, in the same way; which he
accordingly did. The purpose of
Vol. II. C my

My first Letter to him was, to give him notice, that a little boy belonging to the family, had said, that he had seen a fine Gentleman waiting in the field behind the house ; and therefore, I desired him, that he would send his servant with his future Letters. Lovewell had seen the child himself playing about, and as his coming frequently might perhaps be seen by others, he thought proper to observe the caution I had given him ; and from that time, his servant brought me what Letters his master wrote, and

and carried him my answers: all the Letters which passed between us, (after my first,) was for contriving means for my escape: which was at last agreed on, to be made by a ladder of ropes, the window not being very high; this ladder was to be conveyed me, as the Letters had been; and at the dead of night, after all the family was a bed, Lovewell's servant was to come for me, and with whom I was to make my escape, on his making the accustomed signal; which scheme was accordingly

one

one night put in execution, and
 had it's desired effect. The sequel
 of my narrative now, being chiefly
 owing to the prescience of Mrs.
 Lambert, I shall for the present
 decline on my part; and leave her
 to relate, the event of my miracu-
 lous escape through providence,
 which happened by her receiving
 an invitation card, as the Reader
 will find related by her hereafter.

It happened one day, that
 Lady Anne Ethelward, presented
 her Compliments to me with a
 card; acquainting me, that if

I remembered of my having
passed my word, to come to see
Her Ladyship the next day; but
instead of that it was almost a
fortnight.

In order to ease Lady Jones
Ethelwald's anxiety, I resolved to
go to breakfast with her Ladyship
the next morning, and desired Mr.
Lambert, to accompany me. We
set out accordingly, just at day
break, which was about five
o'clock; we went in a chaise and
four, and had two servants on
horseback. Our journey was but
ten

ten miles, so we proposed driving twice round Lady Anne Ethelwald's Park ; and return to her house, at the time she usually breakfasted : as we drew near, one of the servants galloped before, to give notice to the Park Keeper, in order that the great gate might be opened for the chaise ; but he had not passed us more than the length of his horse, when we saw him stop short ; and the coachman driving on, cried he, here has been mischief done to night ! my husband pulled the string, and looking out, saw the
grass

grass was sprinkled with blood; yonder lies a woman murdered, said the man; I do not see her move. Mr. Lambert at these words jumped out of the chaise, and ran to the place his servant pointed to; I was too much frightened to stay behind, and immediately followed, where I beheld the most shocking spectacle, my eyes had ever met; it was a young creature, who seemed of repute, by the richness of her riding habit, which was, brown fringed with gold; she had no covering on her head, and

OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOUNTAIN

and her hair which hung down on her cheek, was full of blood, which seemed to issue from a wound, somewhere about her breast. On a more close examination, we perceived some signs of life in her, and Mr. Lambert raising her a little, she opened her eyes half way, and presently after cried in a faint voice, but distinct enough to be intelligible ; if you have any humanity in you, convey me to some place, where I may die with decency. Mr. Lambert, who had always much compassion in his nature,

nature, was distracted at the impossibility there seemed of giving her any assistance, there being no town, nor even a house near ; I had more presence of mind than he on this occasion, and sent one of the man to the Park-Keeper's little hut, who being informed of the accident, came running out with his wife, and a bottle of brandy ; I made them fetch water in a large bucket, and having stripped my patient to her shift and under petticoat, threw it upon her ; this I did, to stop the blood ; which,

by the swiftness of its flowing, I easily foresaw would be fatal, if her wounds were not so; I found a large cut in her neck, another in her right arm; both which, Mr. Lambert said, seemed to be made with a hanger; and just below her breast, near the pit of her stomach, a swelling of a round form, about the bigness of a Portuguese three pound twelve shilling piece, and very black; it was plain that this contusion had been made by a violent blow, but with what kind of instrument, or weapon, was past conjecture:

conjecture : the water had the effect I hoped for, the bleeding ceased, after which I washed the wound with some of the brandy the woman had brought, and bound them up, to keep the air from getting into them, with such things as the Park-keeper's wife could furnish me with ; the smart which the brandy occasioned, I suppose it was, brought the poor Lady to herself ; she opened her eyes again, and would have spoke, but had not strength : as there was a possibility she might live, if proper care were
given taken,

taken, we consulted in what manner we should dispose of her ; Mr. Lambert, thought it impossible she could be attended, as befitting her condition or rank she seemed to be of with the Park-keeper, so resolved to take her to his house, but how to convey her thither safely was the greatest difficulty ; but this, by the help of a little contrivance, we easily conquered ; I put all the garments I had striped her of, into one side of the chaise, and covered them with a blanket, which I made the Park-keeper bring ;

bring; and raising a seat equal in my knees as I sat, wrapped her up warm, and laid her across, so that her head rested on my lap, and her feet on the side of the chaise, Mr. Lambert got on one of his man's horses, and in this position, the coachman driving very slow, we brought her home, where she was immediately put to bed: during this little journey she had attempted to speak, but had not the power; and as I assisted in putting the pillow under her head, that she might lie as easy as possible, she
caught

catched hold of that hand which
 was nearest to her, and pressed it
 with all the force her weakness
 would permit; looking on me at
 the same time with her eyes, which
 though deprived of all their radi-
 ance, had yet an inexpressible
 loveliness in them, and seemed to
 speak all the sentiments of a soul
 overflowing with gratitude, for the
 good offices she had received from
 us. A Surgeon, whom Mr. Lam-
 bert had lost no time in sending
 for from the next town being
 arrived, he examined her wounds,
 and

and to our great satisfaction assured us, that none of them were mortal, that her greatest danger was the loss of blood which he said had been so great, that had it continued but a few minutes longer, her life must inevitably have issued with it. He added, that the contusion on her breast would take the longest time to cure, and seemed no less at a loss than I had been, to guess by what means it had occasioned: after having given the necessary directions, as to what regimen was to be observed in her diet, she desired,

desired, that above all things, care should be taken to keep her as quiet as possible ; and that even when she received her speech, as he doubted not but she would, after a little sleep, no questions should be asked her concerning the abuse she had received, nor any thing said in her hearing which had any relation to it ; because, the least agitation of spirits in her present state, might make her wounds bleed afresh, and be of the most dangerous consequence : these orders being given, he took
his

his leave, promising to renew his visit in the evening. While I was thus employed above stairs with the Surgeon and his Patient, Mr. Lambert was no less hurried below: the Great Hall was full of people; a Gentleman whom some business had brought into that part of the country, had the succeeding night been robbed by his servant of all his money, his watch, several bank bills; and in short, every thing of value he had with him. Mr. Lambert granted his authority to pursue and search for the villain.

in all the houses liable to suspicion, and would have accompanied the Gentleman himself, had he not been too much disconcerted with the accident above related; however, Mr. Lambert gave him an invitation to his house, on his return home from the pursuit, and insisted on his making it his home, while his affairs detained him in that part of the country. The stranger Gentleman accepted the invitation, not being commodiously lodged, as it was but a poor inn, though the only one thereabouts;

abouts ; and nothing hindered Mr. Lambert from going in pursuit of this villian, but the kind consideration that I should be too deeply affected with the condition of my fair patient, if left alone to meditate upon it.

Mr. Lambert stayed at home with me the whole day ; as it happened no company came, and which I was extremely glad of, not being in a state of mind proper to entertain them.

I ordered one of my servants to sit by the bedside of the wounded

Lady,

Lady, and apply such things as
 were prescribed; notwithstanding
 which, I went almost every hour
 into her chamber, and to my great
 satisfaction found she had taken
 several slumbers; which though
 short, very much refreshed her:
 she recovered her speech, and on
 sight of me, cried, my charming
 preserver and benefactress, with
 what words shall I thank your
 goodness; I replied, that I thought
 it, as I really did, the greatest
 piece of good fortune I ever met
 with in my life, to have the
 opportunity

opportunity of being serviceable;
and that if any gratitude was due
to me, it must be shewn in a strict
observance of the rules prescribed;
which above all things was, to
forbear speaking, and to keep the
mind as free as possible from all
perplexing thoughts; when you
have a little more strength, added
I, I shall be happy to hear by
what unhappy accident you were
reduced, to the condition you are
in; but till then, would be very
sorry to indulge a curiosity which
might cost you so dear; I leave
myself,

myself, with enjoying in the friendship of so agreeable a person, a far greater recompense than the little we have done, or ever can do, is able to deserve. With these words I left the room, to prevent any answer she might have made : the servant whom I had giving the charge of cleaning her garments from the blood, with which they had been in a manner dyed, told me, there was nothing in her pockets ; but in her stays, they found a small picture which had been sewed in, this my maid Lucy brought

brought to me; it was the resemblance of a handsome young man, dressed in blue: it was set in gold, and the back, and the glass, was broke; both frame and picture very much bent; I took particular care of the picture, not doubting it was very precious to the Lady. The Surgeon came at the appointed hour, according to promise; he found her entirely free from a fever, and gave me great hopes that her cure would be speedy.

After the Surgeon was gone, one of my servants brought word, that

that one of the man who had attended the Gentleman in pursuing the villian who had robbed him, was returned, and begged to be admitted to speak personally to my husband: he ordered the man to come in, Well good man what say ye, have you taken the fellow? on which he gave the following account.

We have travelled sixteen or eighteen miles, in pursuit after the villian, but could not find him; we are all returned back to the Gentleman's Lodging, and the
master

master of the inn delivered the Gentleman a Letter, which he said was just brought by a little boy; the Gentleman took the Letter out of the man's hand, and it contained as follows.

OH! Sir, for Heaven sake forgive my trespass; but Dear Sir, what will you say, when you come to know the worst of my crimes? what I have stolen from you may be restored, but Elizabeth Conrade never, no never can be restored; dead, by Heaven dead, murdered, barbarously murdered,

‘by my cruel hands ; mercy,
 ‘Heaven mercy, from the unhappy
 ‘of his sex which murdered her,
 ‘I am,
 JOHN HUMPHREY.”

The Gentleman read the Letter in such an agitation, as I cannot tell how to describe to your honor, we all had much ado to prevent him from killing himself, he is now past sense of feeling it, we know not what to do with him, for he will certainly be mad. Mr. Lambert said, who is this Elizabeth Conrade, the man replied, I know not,

not, nor where the murder was committed, we cannot find out. I had not told my husband any thing concerning the picture, that had been found in the flays of the wounded Lady; but it now came into my head, that she was the same, whom the villain had so inhumanly abused, and whose supposed death had thrown the Gentleman into such agonies; the man said, that could be easily proved by producing the picture. I run immediately and fetched it, desiring Mr. Lambert and the man to

to tell me, if it bore any resemblance with the face of the afflicted Gentleman; they both assured me that it did, and in their opinion, could be drawn for no other: on my relating where it had been found, Mr. Lambert and the man both joined with me, in believing that the wounded Lady under our care, was no other than the Elizabeth Conrade, who seemed so dear to the Gentleman, and that this second adventure, would unravel the mystery of the first: Mr. Lambert therefore resolved to go instantly

to him, and put an end to his distress, by acquainting him of the good fortune we had of preserving a young Lady that morning: who might, if providence had not directed us thither so opportunely to her relief: Mr. Lambert accompanied the man, and in half an hour returned with Mr. Lovewell, for that was the name of the Gentleman, whom Mr. Lambert had in a manner forced along with him; though horror, confusion, and the most poignant anguish, sat on every feature. I was immediately

ately convinced he was the genial
of the portrait I had in my pocket;
Mr. Lambert presenting Mr. Love-
well to me, said my Dear Caroline,
this Gentleman imagines he has
lost a mistress dearer to him than
his life, by his villain of his servant;
what say you, are we to judge
wholly by appearances, I flatter
myself, what this Gentleman so
much laments, is of the nature I
have mentioned. As soon as I
had said these words, he gave a
shriek, fell back in his chair, and
fainted away; when he came to
himself,

himself, he said, I would to God,
Dear Madam, with a sight, which
seemed to rend his heart strings;
I had not the least room for doubt,
but the villain with his own hand
writing confessed the horrid crime,
replied Mr. Lambert, perhaps he
might suppose his brutal rage had
taken effect, he might have
wounded her, but not mortally;
come Sir, continued Mr. Lambert,
perceiving he was ready to sink
with inward grief, which he en-
deavoured to restrain; I beseech
you Sir to take comfort, I have a
strong

strong idea that Elizabeth Conrade still lives, to repay such constant affection as yours appears to be; I am of the same opinion with my husband cried I, and dare almost promise you Sir, a sight of the fair injured Miss Conrade in a very short time. O! where there any possibility of hopes for to be blessed with the sight of that Dear Girl again, I would forgive all else in the power of fate, but she is too surely dead, irrecoverably lost; what miracle can restore her to me, Dear murdered Elizabeth, the
lovliest

loveliest, best of woman, is fallen a
sacrifice, I know not for what
inhuman motive. All we urged,
however, was ineffectual, till I
ventured to speak somewhat more
plain; many a person said I, has
been extremely, nay, dangerously
wounded, and even laid out for
dead, yet have recovered; who
knows, but in the very crisis
between life and death, some
Heavenly directed hand might
interpose to save, and save the
just fleeing into extremity; me,
I say, Elizabeth, thus preserved;
this

this moment thinking of Mr. Lovewell, and longing to communicate to him, the means of her preservation: I spoke these words with such an air, as caused him to think there was something strange in my meaning, than merely to soothe his griefs by a flattering supposition; and looking earnestly in my face, ah! Madam, said he, if any thing has discovered itself to you relating my dear Elizabeth, I beseech you, conjure or reveal it to me; I am not certain, answered I, but a young Lady was found desperately

desperately wounded this morning in a field, perhaps is the same you mean; if it proves so, I dare venture to assure you of her life at present. Where is that Lady? cried he impatiently; the least glimpse of her face, the least accent of her dear, yet well known voice, would soon convince me of my happiness or misery; should the person I mean, replied I, be in reality your Elizabeth, a visit from you in the condition to which she is reduced, might utterly destroy all the efforts, which have been
made

made to save her, and be no less fatal than the wounds she has received must have been, without immediate interposition of divine providence; but there are no other ways to ease your suspense, but by such rules as I will point out, provided you give me your solemn promise of not attempting to see your Elizabeth, till she is better able to sustain so agreeable a surprise. Promise you Dear Madam, replied he, I will submit to your directions in every thing relating to my angelical Elizabeth; I then said,

said, pray Mr. Lovewell, I did you
 never make a present to Miss or
 Mrs. Elizabeth Conrade of your
 picture; by Heaven I did cried he.
 I then shewed him the picture,
 Great God he exclaimed he; he
 trembled, turned pale, and said,
 how can this be Madam? how
 could this be brought about. I
 now leave my kind readers to
 judge of the transport he had on
 this occasion; I thought it would
 have taken too violent an effect
 on his understanding to relate the
 whole to him immediately, so by
 degrees

degrees I proceeded to let him into the whole truth ; but he had no sooner known, that it was to Mr. Lambert and myself she owed her preservation, then he said, Oh ! with what words shall I thank you both ? he threw himself at our feet, kissed my hands with the same ardor, as he would have done those of his Elizabeth ; he embraced Mr. Lambert, called him his Guardian Angel, and it was for a considerable time, ere we could put any stop to the immoderate raptures of his joy.

200936

Mr.

Mr. Lovewell being now recovered from his surprise, I begged him to relate to me by what means she fell into the hand of such a villain; Mr. Lovewell replied, It make no doubt Dear Madam, you are impatient to know; and therefore, as you have asked for a particular account, I will not trespass too much on your good nature, but will now inform you from my first intimacy with Miss Conrade, which was briefly thus.

It happened one evening that we were at a public ball; and from
 which

which time our intimacy came;
 after that, we became enamoured,
 and by the consent of her Grand-
 mother, (under whose protection
 she then was,) we were engaged
 for marriage, and which to us was
 deemed for a surety; but alas! how
 frail is human thought, for nothing
 certain is but this, that there is
 nothing sure, which example pro-
 ved to us in the present case; for as
 misfortune would have it, her
 Grandmother died, and her brutal
 father, (for no otherwise can I stile
 him,) forbid me his house without
 which any

any cause; for no other reason,
than to deprive me of his daughter,
who I declare was dearer to me
than myself; and on my account,
he caused her to be banished from
home, and sent into the country,
to an acquaintance of his; there
to be deprived of the privilege of
seeing any person: in this state,
was she for some time, till I came
by chance to hear where she was;
and no sooner had I intelligence,
but I instantly pursued her; for I
was well convinced, how great her
affection was for me, and mine not

less for her; we carried on a private correspondence unknown to any person; and by our appointment, she was one night to make an elopement with my servant, from the place where she was confined, and who was to conduct her to me; but the villain through some mercenary motives, committed this outrage on her person, which I am convinced of, by the Letter I received from him; but his reason for this rash action, I am at present at a loss to account for; until such time, that it shall please God to restore

restore my Dear Elizabeth in her former state ; who will be better able to relate the reason, than I can at present. As to the beauty of my lovely Elizabeth, her beauty, is all softness, she is more like the picture of a goddess, than any thing of which I can give you an idea ; she has all that modest sweetness, that attractive langour, which words must fall infinitely short of describing ; her complexion, has more of the lilly than the rose, except when heightened by the blush of modesty, or the glow of exercise ;
her

her eyes are animated, and perfectly indicate to the feelings of her heart; in her whole manner, there is an indescribable tenderness, amazingly pleasing; her fine height or eloquence of shape, both which my Dear Elizabeth possesses, with every other advantage of person to a high degree; and she excels in every polite accomplishment, owing to the care of her Grandmother, (now no more,) under whom my Dear Elizabeth was bred.

We passed the rest of the day
in

in admiring the goodness of divine providence ; which frequently, when we think ourselves most lost of hope, by means the most unexpected sends relief, and snatches us from despair. After much conversation on the subject, during which Mr. Lovewell seemed quite uneasy, he retired to bed ; and in the morning informed me, that he could not sleep, his spirits being so much agitated ; perhaps, extreme joy may be a greater enemy to sleep than extreme sorrow ; for a depression of mind, sinks the animal system

system into a kind of stupor, that happily often ends in a refreshing slumber ; whilst a perturbation occasioned by joy, raises the spirits to such a degree of effervescence, as effectually excludes a possibility of repose ; till time, and the fatigue of too high a degree of animation, have reduced the mental powers to a state of tranquility ; from this cause Lovewell arose in the morning, without having closed his eyes ; at length the bell rang, he reached the breakfast parlour, cheerful and blooming as the morn ;
for

for two days he was all that heaven could produce, but he soon again sank into his former state; I used all endeavours in my power to enliven him; by frequently reading such books as he most recommended; we often diverted ourselves in playing cards, chess, and all such diversions, as I thought might ease his mind from thought; in short, I did every thing to please him, that esteem and gratitude could dictate to contribute to his comfort; but an air of dissatisfaction almost constantly clouded his countenance,

countenance, he was thoughtful, absent, and peevish; he was at times gloomy and unsocial, he would frequently walk and ride alone, and pass whole hours in Mr. Lambert's study, musing the conversation of our company; although, he had heard the Surgeon say, he found his Patient in as fair way of recovery as could be wished; but yet, not fit to hold any long conversation. Lovewell's life was a burden to him, a fortnight almost was he in this deplorable condition; and all society

to

to him became inkblome. One day said I, how strange is it to me, that you should be thus reduced to the utmost despair, through your impatience; for I will venture to promise you, the sight of your Elizabeth very soon; you are certainly very wrong to behave in this manner; for it is ungrateful to that providence, which deals out those blessings to us with a grante hand, perhaps as we may think imperfect; because, it is not given to us to be as happy as angels, nor to reject what will please

us in the class of happy mortals ; this, and much more I urged for a long time, but in vain ; at length, he replied, how happy should I be, could I once more see my life ! my soul ! my murdered Elizabeth ! be comforted, said I, I will go to her, and try to ease thy grief, and bring thee the tidings.

I went up stairs to her, she was sitting by the fire side, in a very disconsolate manner ; I said, I am come to have an hour's discourse with you, and by accident I called her Miss Conrade ; she trembled,

I II and

and turned as pale as death, to hear me call her by her name; she replied, Dear Madam, your sprightly and tender conversation, will restore a calm to my mind; a thing, which I have not possessed a long time; she having resumed some degree of composure, took my hand and pressed it to her lips, attempting to speak; when the tears of sensibility and soft confusion, burst from her eyes; Oh! my dear Madam, exclaimed she, how shall I express my gratitude, for the trouble you have taken, with such

a deplorable being as I am. For
 Heaven sake, answered I, my Dear,
 recast your wandering thoughts,
 from the gloomy images present;
 and look forward to that grand
 consummation, when light shall
 arise out of darkness; order out of
 confusion; good be educed from
 evil; and harmony, and happiness,
 and perfection, prevail through all
 the works of God; for indeed, I
 must acknowledge, I have found
 an unhappy something hang upon
 your spirit; now, my Dear Girl,
 be candid to reveal to me, what is
 the

the matter with you. Perhaps,
 Dear Madam, I infect you with
 my melancholy; a melancholy,
 which the return of this conversa-
 tion rather augments: no more of
 that, replied I, but permit me,
 dearest Miss Conrade, to warn you
 of the danger of giving way to its
 extreme violence; and to remind
 you, that it is not only your own
 health which is now at stake, but
 also the health and peace of one,
 who is much afflicted for your
 sake, and nearly in a delirious state;
 struck with surprise! she instantly
 replied,

replied, Madam, I understand not your meaning, or are you intimate with Mr. Lovewell? if it proves so, I have not the least doubt, that you are too well acquainted with my deplorable narration. I then replied, through mere accident I became intimate with him, and related to her in what manner; at the same time informing her, that he was a guest at present in my house. On hearing this, she fell in a swoon, and it was for some space of time before she recovered.

On her recovery said I, how
can

can you behave in such a manner?
you ought to thank Divine Good-
ness, for the miracle he did in pre-
serving you; instead of which, you
sin against him; after much dis-
course on this subject, with which
she seemed in a manner pacified, I
asked her, if she would willingly
see Mr. Lovewell? on which she
replied, see him, with all my heart;
for he is the only one, which was
created for my comfort; on which
I answered, I shall debar you of
him, till such time, you give me
your solemn promise, that you are
quite

quite reconciled, and in a manner capable of receiving him; she promising to comply, I ordered my servant that was in the room to go and call Mr. Lovewell; he came, and they were instantly clasped in each other's arms; they wept for joy, and seemed to think that they had no concern with any one upon earth, except each other. My dear Elizabeth said he, do I once more see you; Heaven knows! what pain I suffered on your account, since you met with this sad disaster; she trembled, and attempted to speak; but

but the faltering accents died upon her quivering lips: he took her hand with rapture to his lips, *say, my adored Elizabeth, said he; Oh! let me hear a favourable sentence from that lovely mouth.* She in some degree regained her presence of mind, and with a voice expressive of the tender sensations of her heart, replied: *never knew I such heartfelt pleasure, as I do at this moment; your kind civility makes me, if possible, love you more than ever; but Oh! dear Madam, pardon the freedom of my*
 Vpl. II. K confession.

confession. Pardon you my Dear,
 there need no excuse; you may
 depend of my doing every thing
 in my power, to make you both
 happy; I then requested of her to
 relate to me, by what means she
 fell into the power of such a
 monster, which she most readily
 agreed to; assuring me, that it was
 no small addition to the pain she
 felt, that I should be so long kept
 in ignorance, concerning the man-
 ner, by which she was reduced, to
 the condition we found her in; and
 relieved by the generous pity of
 myself

myself and husband ; having said these words, she began to relate the account, which was to the following purport.

As to the particulars of the earlier part of my life, I have not the least doubt, Mr. Lovewell has already informed you : so at present, it rests for me to tell you, that the night prior to that appointed for my escape, just as I was going to bed, I heard the accustomed signal under my window : I was very much surpris'd, but looking out, found it was Mr. Lovewell's servant ;

servant ; on which, I hastily let down the string, supposing he had brought a letter. Madam, said he, my master had no time to write, an accident has happened, which requires your immediate removal ; no time is to be lost, make haste therefore to descend ; he has prepared a chariot, in which he waits for you at a convenient place. I had no suspicion of the truth of what he said, but run to fetch the ladder of ropes, he had before conveyed to me ; while I was fixing it, have you got your money and

and jewels, Madam, cried he ; I have none here, answered I ; that is unlucky replied he, but no matter ; by this time I was got down. He was on horseback, he took me up before him ; and we rode, I believe, near two miles, without speaking a word ; till coming to the great road, I asked him where Lovewell was ? a little farther off, answered he ; and with these words clapped spurs to his horse, which galloped with us at such a rate, that I had no breath to speak ; I thought we were now far enough,

enough, from the place where I had been confined; and began to wonder I did not see my Dear Lovewell. Our pace being a little slackened, I asked where he was? and added, I hoped he had not mistaken the road, where the chariot was to meet us; no, replied this monster, you are nearer to your Loyer than you imagine: I was that instant seized with a terror, which I could not then account for, nor am I able to describe: I threw my eyes round in search of what I so much wished to see, but

though

though I might have discerned
 objects at a far distance, the moon
 shining very bright; nothing pre-
 sented itself to me, but a dreary
 waste, over which we passed; and
 came to the entrance of a wood;
 here it was the villain stopped,
 and still holding me in his arms
 dismounted; he made me sit down
 on a kind of a bank, while he tied
 his horse by the bridle to a tree;
 now, said he, you will instantly be
 in possession, of the most faithful
 and passionate of all Lovers. Oh
 where is he? cried I, endeavour-
 ing

ing to penetrate into the thickness
of the wood; why comes he not
to ease my trembling heart? here,
here he is, replied that most exec-
rable of all traitors; and at the
same time, throwing himself down
before me, behold in me your
faithful adorer, Lovewell loves
you not; he has resigned his title
to me, and you are mine by his
gift, and I hope will be so by your
own free will; when you shall be
convinced how much I adore you.
The astonishment and terror I was
in, at the beginning of this infamous
declaration,

declaration; left me not to the
 power of interrupting it; till he
 attempted to close it with a kiss &
 rage, got the better of the more
 timid passion; and giving him a
 blow, with all my force upon the
 face, most impudent of all villains;
 cried out, what is the devil has
 prompted thee to this behaviour?
 your beauty, answered he, and the
 commands of him, that was once
 my master; these prognosticated
 falsties, replied I, half choked
 with indignation; and endeavour-
 ing to yell; but alas! all the strength
 I

I could muster, was feeble, when opposed to his; he had me fast within his grasp, and compelled me to sit still, and hear the odious arguments he had prepared, to work me to his will; he told me, that sensible of the many inconveniences that attend marriage, without the consent of friends; and besides, having the offer of a more preferable match, that Lovewell had resolved to quit me; he also said, he had acquainted Mr. Lovewell, with the secret passion he had for me, and that Lovewell

I will have

had advised him to pursue it, and directed him in the means he had now taken, as the most likely for accomplishing his purpose: think not, my Dear Madam, that I believed one syllable of what this wretch had uttered; but the different passions of fear and anger warring in my breast, prevented me for some time, from saying any thing, in contradiction of his falsehood's: had I been mistress of the least presence of mind, I should certainly have flattered the villain's hopes, have seemed to give credit

to

to

to his allegations, made a shew of
 consent to his desires, and suffered
 him to conduct me on the journey,
 till we came to some house, where
 I might safely have discovered my
 disdain, proclaimed his treachery,
 and applied for the protection of
 justice; believing himself secure
 of me, he then would, perhaps,
 have treated me with respect, and
 I had escaped the insults he soon
 after, had the insolence and the
 cruelty to offer; but in that dread-
 ful juncture, my senses were all
 confused, and lost; I had no
 reflection,

reflection, no contrivance, and no
thoughts, to find proper words,
wherewith to express my abhor-
rence of his person and attempt;
this so irritated him, that he plainly
told me, if I would not be his in
the honorable way he had proposed,
I should be by such means, which
would make me hereafter repent
my pride and folly; that he had
not proceeded so far, without re-
solution to stop at nothing, and
that he was not of a humour to be
checked, by the vain threats of a
weak silly Girl; these words, once
said

followed

followed by actions, which left me no room to doubt, the horrid intention of his foul; my modesty, alas! suffered but too many indignities, and it was Heaven alone, that sure enabled me to repel the last of violations; all my stock of strength, was near exhausted; and I was near being rendered the most wretched of my sex, when I was relieved by the most unexpected, and indeed, unhop'd for means; just as I was on the brink of ruin, the sudden trampling of horses at some distance, made the villain start,

start, and pause in the execution of his purpose; this interruption also gave me time, and breath, to send forth a loud shout; in hopes, of drawing those persons, whoever they were, to my rescue: he still kept listening, and stopped my mouth with his hand so close, that I could make little or no sound; I used my utmost efforts, for that purpose, which he perceiving, and at the same time imagining, the persons he heard were coming that way, perhaps in pursuit of himself; to prevent being taken,
I and

and in revenge for his disappointment, he drew his hanger, and gave me three wounds, holding the other hand full over my mouth; after which, he set his foot upon my breast, doubtless, to dispatch me with the more speed, then mounted his horse, and rode away with an incredible swiftness. My intended ravisher being gone, as I might well be assured, by his last usage to me, with no thoughts of returning; I made no efforts to call the strangers, whom I still heard, to my assistance, not doubting, by the pains

I felt, but I had received a mortal wound; and also not knowing for a surety, but that I might fall into as bad hands, as the one I had just escaped; I therefore lay quite still, till they were passed, which they did, without taking any notice of me; they were five in number, and seemed earnest in discourse; but on what subject, or what business, my agonies prevented me from discovering; you may suppose, indeed, I had little curiosity to know. I will not trouble you, with any description, to the agonies

Vol. H. M. With

90 THE YOUNG LADY OF FORTUNE OR HER

I felt but I had received a mortal
 with which my mind accompanied
 those of my body; you may judge,
 in the dying condition, I then
 thought myself, they must be as
 terrible as human nature could
 sustain; my wounds bled very fast,
 and I can impute my not fainting
 quite away, only to the excessive
 pain I felt, from the hurt in my
 breast, owing to the monster having
 set his feet upon it. Day at last
 began to appear, the weather was
 extremely sultry; which joined to
 the great loss of blood I sustained,
 I got the better of my anguish, and
 fell

fell into a kind of a swoon, how
long I laid in that condition I know
not; but the first objects that pre-
sented themselves to my returning
senses, were you, Dear Madam,
and your Generous Husband; Oh!
how shall I express my gratitude;
for the trouble you have taken
with me; I have a heart that
scorns dissimulation, but I hope it
will be in my power to reward you,
for your goodness to me. She was
here interrupted from proceeding
farther; Mr. Lovewell being then
in the heat of passion, on hearing
in

in what manner the villain had treated her, instantly replied he, inhuman of all beings ; not only did he rob me of all my things of value, but besides that, treated you my Dear, who is dearer to me than my life, with this barbarous usage ; for which reason, I am bent, he shall suffer to the utmost in my power. When your disaster first happened, he wrote a letter to me at my inn, but I being then in a sea of trouble on your account, the villain has thus long avoided justice, which I am resolved he shall not escape,

escape, on which he instantly called
one of my servants, and ordered
that an edict be immediately made,
in search of the villain; offering a
reward of two hundred pounds to
any person, who could give any
intelligence concerning him; when
it was found, that the villain after
committing this rash action, had
left a second Letter at the inn;
the purport of which was, that he
confessed the inhuman crime he
had been guilty of, and called on
his Maker for a forgiveness; that
after doing so capital an offence,
he

he deemed this world nought but trouble to him, and that he would depart from it, by poisoning himself; which it is supposed the wretch did, as no farther account was heard of him.

As we were one morning at breakfast, I said, the affection you seem to have for each other, it surprises me much, that you do not enter into the married state; for the greatest happiness in this world our sex enjoy, is to marry the man they really love; your observations Dear Madam is right,
answered

answered Lovewell, for it is certainly so in much higher degree; there is no comparison between the frivolous affection of attracting the eyes of man, with whom they are only captivated by way of amusement, and of whom perhaps, they know nothing more than their features, and a regular and uniform endeavour of making themself valuable, both as a friend and a lover.

As it began to grow late, and I expecting company that evening to a public ball, I desired Mr. Lovewell

Lovewell to accompany me down stairs, in order, that she might take some small repose, before her dressing hour, it being the first time after her accident, that she ventured to make her appearance in public, which we accordingly did.

The delicacy and beautifulnes of her form, instantly attracted the attention of the whole company; she was dressed with simplicity, and suited the ornaments of her situation: in my life, I never beheld one so interesting, the flush which

Lovewell

which adorned her cheeks, made the disorder not in any degree hurt her complexion ; in short, she was one of the handsomest creature eyes ever beheld. Her charming eyes, were blue as the violet, and brilliant as the orient gems. Her tresses, were of a golden hue, and hung over her alabaster neck, like those of the daughters of paradise. Her breasts, fair as the driven snow : her cheeks resembled the roses, and her lips the blushes of the morn ; her stature was majestic, and her make was slender : every

part appeared perfection itself, and her delightful symmetry caught the eye of every beholder, who explored her charms with rapture, and she was the topic of discourse during the evening.

One afternoon having company to Tea, Mr. Lambert requested Elizabeth to play him a tune, and accompany it with a song, which she immediately did; and her voice itself was music in its softest strains, for when she sung every ear was charmed; and it may be truly said,

Her voice was sweeter than the softest strings,

Her eyes had lightning, and her heart had wings.

Lovewell

Lovewell himself had never heard the like, he arose and stood behind her chair, wrapped in sensations, too tender to be expressed.

The next morning I requested Elizabeth, to go with me into the garden, I was silent till we reached an alcove, where we both sat down; I said, perhaps my Dear, you are a little surpris'd at my requesting of your company alone, but it is by the desire of Mr. Lovewell, to speak to you, concerning naming the day, that will make each other happy, and as both your affection
seem

seem mutual, therefore I wish you to appoint the time, as there is at present no obstacle in the way. She blushed, and replied, that she could not conceal any thing from me, that she owned she loved and indulged Lovewell ; be not alarmed, Dear Madam, at the frankness of this confession, for I must tell you, I bear for him the tenderest affection ; and with your kind permission, Dear Madam, I will inform my father under whose tender care I am at present ; intreat his pardon, and request his consent to name
the

the day, for my marrying Lovewell. Indeed my Dear, replied I, you shall not write to your father, for he has deprived you of him as far as in his power laid, and made you suffer such anguish heretofore, would you be so silly to ask his consent? she replied, Madam, I resign to your superior judgment; then said I, I will make a worthy man happy, this day week shall be the day. We returned from our walk, and the moment we entered the room I made a private signal to Lovewell, who instantly apprehending

hending my meaning, joy sparkled from him ; then tapping him on the shoulder, and with a smile, I said, this day week is to be the happy day. He pressed my hand with rapture, and said, Madam, I return you my sincere thanks, and the remainder of the evening we passed in mirth.

The day appointed came, the amiable couple were united, their hands were joined in Mr. Lambert's Chapel ; the happy Lovewell led to the altar his beauteous Elizabeth with a triumphant smile. She was dressed

dressed in a beautiful white lute-string gown and petticoat full trimmed; her bright eyes spoke the language of love, and her glowing cheek was emparled with a warm blush; from Mr. Lambert's hands Mr. Lovewell received his bride; Lord Ethelwald, Lady Anna, myself, and a few friends were present. We enjoyed much mirth on the occasion, and at night he retired to clasp to his breast, the most lovely among women.

After their marriage they remained with us about a month, and
partook

partook of all the pleasure which the country would allow ; she then went to London, in order to transfer her property to her husband ; to crave her parents pardon ; and, to settle an Annuity of three hundred pounds per Annum, to her sincere friend Polly, through whom she became to enjoy her Ever Dear Lovewell ; this being done, they returned, and now reside near me ; where I hope they will enjoy the remainder of their days, in far more happiness than they have hitherto.

F I N I S.